

**SamTrans Board Liaison Report
Meeting of January 8, 2025**

Board Received/Actions

- Approved the appointment of Public Members Director Esser and Director Powell
- Approved December 4, 2024, Regular Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
- Accepted the Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the Period Ending November 30, 2024
- Elected Vice Chair Gee as Board Chair and Director Chuang as Vice Chair for 2025
- Appointed Director Medina as Representative to San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board of Directors
- Approved Proclamation Recognizing January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month
- Authorized the General Manager/CEO to Sign the Equity in Infrastructure Project Pledge
- Appointed Member Representing Bus Riders to the Citizens Advisory Committee
- Approved Amending to Increase the Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget from \$308,530,252 to \$315,930,252
- Approved Adoption of 2025 Legislative Program

Board Highlights

April Chan, General Manager/CEO, highlighted under her General Manager's report:

- Congratulated Chair Gee and Vice Chair Chuang on their appointment for 2025 as well as congratulating the Directors Esser and Powell for their reappointments and thanked Director Fraser for her service in 2024 as the Chair
- Showed appreciation towards staff involvement and work at the Hometown Holiday Event and the Caltrain Holiday Train events in December 2024
- MTC's upcoming polling of the public for potential local measures that provides transit funding
- Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) regional mapping and wayfinding project update: prototypes of wayfinding signage and maps are currently available at the El Cerrito BART Station and at the Santa Rosa SMART station.
- Unveiling of new RidePlus application (app) on January 13, 2025
- Upcoming bond refunding and board bond disclosure training

Authorizing the General Manager/CEO to Sign the Equity in Infrastructure Project Pledge

Wendy Lau, Deputy Director of Office of Civil Rights, presented on why the District should sign the Equity in Infrastructure Pledge, as it would help to spread opportunities for underserved businesses and addressed generational wealth. Overall SamTrans has provided funding to over 21 small business enterprises, totaling \$3.74 million this past year. Although exceeding the disadvantaged business enterprise goal of 4.78%, there is a desire to increase outreach to other businesses and address other barriers being faced by these businesses.

Community Relations Committee

Appoint Member Representing Bus Riders to the Citizens Advisory Committee- Committee Chair Esser stated staff and Directors Medina, Ratto, and Esser recommend Hana Estalilla to be appointed.

Accessible Services Update - Tina Dubost, Manager, Accessible Services, provided an update on Same-Day Paratransit Service. Senior Showcase in Millbrae to take place later this month.

Paratransit Advisory Council Update- Ben McMullan, Chair of PAC, provided an update that two new members were welcomed with plans to welcome two new members in January 2025.

Monthly State of the Service Report | November 2024- Ana Rivas, Director Bus Transportation, provided a report on increasing weekday ridership (4.4%) and decreasing RidePlus weekday ridership (16.9%) and app usage.

Finance Committee

Amending to Increase the Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget from \$308,530,252 to \$315,930,252- Ladi Millard-Olmeda, Director of Budgets, provided a presentation regarding funding the collecting bargaining agreement that was ratified by the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1574 and SamTrans Board of Directors in November 2024, in which, amongst other funding sources, will be funded by Measure W sales tax.

Legislative Committee

Adoption of 2025 Legislative Program- Jessica Epstein, Director, Government and Community Affairs, provided a presentation on changes to the Legislative Program since it was presented as draft to the Board last month. She highlighted the following changes: other local funding options would be changing to equitable and sufficient operating and capital support, as well as change in verbiage tense of voter threshold from past tense to future tense.

Legislative Update

Jessica Epstein, Director, Government and Community Affairs, introduced Legislative Lobbyists Holland & Knight, Eve O'Toole, Leslie Pollner, and Joe O'Brien who provided the presentation that included the following:

- Federal updates regarding the Republican trifecta (House, Senate, and White House)
- Senators Padilla and Senators Schiff were selected to serve on Environment and Public Works Committee
- Congress extended government funding to March 14, 2025
- Next Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill hearings to begin in 2025, as current authorization expires on September 30, 2026

Jessica Epstein provided the presentation on state legislation which included the following:

- Legislators have until January 21 to introduce new bills
- No proposals for new funding regarding to transportation, observation on existing funding streams and non-general revenues such as cap and trade; however, there is to

be a capital and trade reauthorization discussion to extend the program beyond current 2030 sunset. Discussion is to be led by California Transit Association

- Regional measure polling is to take place

Closed Sessions

Joan Cassman, Legal Counsel, reported on the closed session from December 4, 2024, where the Board had no reportable action.

There were three closed sessions, including two sessions on existing litigation and a conference about Public Employee Performance Evaluation. Joan Cassman, Legal Counsel, stated that any action taken will be reported at the next SamTrans Board Meeting on February 5, 2025.